

670 Doane Ave.,
Claremont, Calif.,
May 17, 1959

Dear Mr. Seeger:

I am about to begin work as an organizer for the National Agricultural Workers Union. As you may have heard, in California during the next two years there is going to be the broadest and most thoroughgoing (and, I might say, best financed) effort ever made to organize farm laborers. They say it can't be done, but then they have said the same thing about the railroads, coal mines, steel, auto, and every other big industry.

The fight will be tough, of course. Every weapon in the book will be thrown against us. We will need to use on our own behalf every weapon which comes to hand, and we will need to fashion some which do not now exist. I have in mind, for example, the use of fighting songs and ballads to point up some of the basic issues in the conflict and to sustain the morale of the workers. To succeed, I feel the farm labor movement is going to need a symbol as immediately and universally recognizable as "I Dreamed I Saw Joe Hill Last Night."

You are probably better able than anyone else in the country to give advice concerning a musical rallying cry for farm workers who are trying to organize. Perhaps we could take over, with slight modification, some work song already in existence. Perhaps it would be better to develop a new work song specifically adapted to our purposes. (See, for example, the enclosed sketch.)

When I learned that you were coming to Claremont, I determined to try to meet you and talk to you about this concern of ours which I thought you might wish to make your concern, too. I am leaving copies of this note with two of your friends in town. I would appreciate very much a half hour or so of your time either before or after tonight's recital. I may be reached at any time during the day at National 6-6051. In the evening, I shall be at the recital, and if I have not been able to reach you in any other way, I shall try to see you backstage afterwards.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Henry Anderson